



# KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

MARCH – JUNE 2016

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**Fish & Wildlife:**

1-800-858-1549 • [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

Office hours: Monday - Friday

8 AM - 4:30 PM ET

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### SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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John Brunjes photo

**Hunting on private land is a privilege.**  
 Always get permission and thank the landowner.

**Be a mentor.** Pass on the heritage and traditions of hunting and fishing in Kentucky. Contact the department online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for more information.



@kyfishwildlife

## NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in bright blue throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

### SQUIRREL HUNTING

- Hunters may use a rimfire handgun and a .410 gauge handgun to take squirrels.

### PUBLIC LANDS

- A 601-acre addition to Dr. James R. Rich WMA in Owen County is open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and spring squirrel seasons. The additional acreage is serviced by parking areas off Old Owenton-Georgetown Road and Old Columbus Road.
- Indian Creek Tract of Clay WMA in Bath County is open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and spring squirrel seasons. The new tract is

serviced by a parking area off KY 1602/Oakley Pebble Road.

- Czar Hunting Access Area in Johnson, Martin and Floyd counties includes Beech Fork, Bow and Czar tracts. Beech Fork Tract is open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and spring squirrel seasons. Portions of Beech Fork Tract are off limits. Refer to maps on [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). No spring turkey or spring squirrel hunting allowed on Bow Tract. Quota spring turkey hunt held on Czar Tract. Email [mintha@czarky.net](mailto:mintha@czarky.net) to apply. Call (606) 889-1814 for more information.
- Revelation Energy Hunting Access Area in Breathitt, Floyd, Harlan, Knott, Leslie, Martin and Pike counties is open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and spring squirrel seasons.

## APPLY FOR AN ELK QUOTA HUNT

Kentucky has the largest elk herd of any state east of the Rocky Mountains and offers firearms, archery and crossbow quota hunts for elk each year.

Residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply for these quota hunts. Applications for these hunts go on sale January 1. Hunters must buy their elk quota hunt applications before midnight (Eastern time) on April 30.

Elk quota hunt applications can only be purchased via Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's mobile-friendly website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). A person who does not have access to the department's website to apply for any quota hunt may contact the department toll free at 1-800-858-1549, weekdays, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern time for assistance.

Hunters may submit one application for each of the four permit types, but can only be drawn for one hunting permit.

Each entry costs \$10, and only individuals may apply (no party/group entries). Drawn hunters may use helpers (non-shooting) on their hunts.

Hunters 15 years of age and younger may apply for a youth-only quota hunt during the same application period as the regular elk quota hunt drawing.

Applicants for this youth-only hunt

may also purchase elk applications for the regular elk quota hunts. A youth may not be drawn for the youth-only quota hunt and the regular quota hunt for elk in the same year, and if drawn for the youth-only hunt, will be permanently blocked from applying for the youth-only hunt again.

A random computer drawing is held in May to select the drawn hunters. Applicants may check [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) to see if they were drawn.

### KNOW THE LAW!

Please read this guide carefully to prevent being cited for a violation. Make sure you understand Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws before going afield. If you need help understanding a law call 1-800-858-1549, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

The top five most issued citations related to hunting and trapping are:  
 1) Hunting or trapping without a license  
 2) Hunting or trapping without landowner's permission  
 3) Illegal take of game  
 4) Taking more game than the bag limit, and  
 5) Failure to tag or check game.



March - June 2016



# KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

John Brunjes photo

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### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of hunting laws, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) in its entirety and should not be used as such. The exact wording of Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws can be viewed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Click on "Enforcement," then "Regulations," then scroll down to "Administrative Regulations."

### OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Throughout the year, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for fishing and boating, fall hunting, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting (dove, wood duck, teal, woodcock, snipe and crow). These guides are available free wherever licenses are sold and are posted online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LICENSES and PERMITS

### GENERAL HUNTER LICENSING

Persons who take or attempt to take game are considered hunters and therefore subject to licensing requirements.

Unless license exempt, hunters must obtain and carry while in the field proof that they have met the license requirements for the kind of hunting they are doing. This proof can be either a paper license/permit or a license authorization number.

Persons who can't show they are licensed properly while hunting risk being issued a citation.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit, unless license exempt. Paper licenses and permits must

### *Lose your license?*

Replacements can be printed at no cost from [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

be signed and the hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

### LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

In some cases, a resident hunter may not be required to buy a hunting license, permits to hunt deer, bear or turkey, or a Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit.

Here are those situations:

- Resident and nonresident children younger than the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except the elk hunt drawing application.
- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands during an open season.
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where they reside and work.

- Kentucky residents on military leave of more than three days in this state who carry identification and papers verifying their leave status.
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces based in Kentucky engaged in sport hunting or fishing on the following Kentucky National Guard properties: Hidden Valley Training Area in Powell County and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County.

**Q: Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy nonresident licenses and permits?**

**A:** Yes. All nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

## HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed.

When buying a license or permit, the hunter's date of birth and Social Security number must be provided.

If you have licensing questions, call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, weekdays from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time).

### ONLINE

Licenses and permits can be purchased online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Hunters purchasing licenses or permits online must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover card, or a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife gift certificate. Gift certificates are sold online only at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper license or permit but will receive an authorization number. The authorization number or a computer printout of the license or permit and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

### IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased at various locations throughout the state. A list of license agents can be viewed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by telephone 24 hours a day by calling toll-free 1-877-598-2401. All licenses and permits, except a disability li-

cense, elk drawing application and youth licenses and permits, can be purchased by telephone.

Hunters purchasing licenses and permits by phone will be charged a small convenience fee, and must pay with a Visa, Mastercard or Discover card, or an e-check. Hunters will be issued an authorization number which serves as the license or permit. The authorization number and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

If requested, a paper license or permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

Both the authorization number and paper license are valid for the license year.

## WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below provide a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for exemptions and complete residency, li-

censing and hunter education requirements. Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for children younger than the age of 12.

*Also:* See page 5 for Senior/Disabled License eligibility.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and older OR Disabled
<b>Deer</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Small Game &amp; Furbearer</b>	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Trapping</b>	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
<b>Migratory Birds</b> (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Waterfowl</b> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + <b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>	Senior/Disabled License + <b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>

\*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and older
<b>Deer</b>	Youth Hunting License + Youth Deer Permit	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
<b>Small Game &amp; Furbearer</b>	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License
<b>Trapping</b>	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
<b>Migratory Birds</b> (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit
<b>Waterfowl</b> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + <b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>

### Other laws still apply!

All hunters, including those who are license-exempt or eligible to purchase reduced-price licenses, must abide by all other regulations as outlined in this guide.

**Q: Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?**

**A:** Yes. Multiple Youth Turkey Permits may be purchased, but season bag limits must be followed.

## LICENSE and PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	<b>Annual Fishing</b>	\$20	\$50
	<b>Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing</b>	\$36	Not available
	<b>1-Day Fishing</b>	\$7	\$10
	<b>3-Year Fishing</b> (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$55	Not available
	<b>Nonresident 7-Day Fishing</b>	Not available	\$30
	<b>Nonresident 15-Day Fishing</b>	Not available	\$40
	<b>Trout Permit</b>	\$10	
	<b>Annual Hunting</b>	\$20	\$140
	<b>1-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$15
	<b>7-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$55
	<b>Annual Youth Hunting</b> (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	<b>Shooting Area License</b> (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$5	
	<b>Annual Trapping</b>	\$20	\$130
	<b>Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping</b>	\$10	Not available
	<b>Annual Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Trapping</b>	\$5	Not available
COMBOS	<b>Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing</b>	\$30	Not available
	<b>Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing*</b> (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5	Not available
	<b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state migratory game bird-waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	<b>Statewide Deer Permit</b> (two deer)	\$35	\$120
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Deer Permit</b> (one deer)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Additional Deer Permit</b> (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	<b>Spring Turkey Permit</b> (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Turkey Permit</b> (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Fall Turkey Permit</b> (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	<b>Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit</b>	\$15	
	<b>Federal Duck Stamp</b> (available at post offices and online at <a href="http://www.duckstamp.com">www.duckstamp.com</a> )	\$25	
	<b>Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$25	
ELK	<b>Elk Drawing Application</b> (deadline April 30; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$10	
	<b>Youth WMA Elk Drawing Application</b> (deadline April 30; available at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$10	
	<b>Quota Bull Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$100	\$550
	<b>Quota Cow Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$60	\$400
	<b>Youth Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$30	\$40
	<b>Out-of-Zone Elk Permit</b> (Nonresident available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$30	\$400
BEAR	<b>Bear Permit</b>	\$30	Not available
	<b>Bear Chase Permit</b>	\$30	Not available
	<b>Youth Bear Chase Permit</b>	\$10	Not available
AREAS	<b>Peabody WMA User Permit</b>	\$15	
	<b>Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit</b>	\$25, or \$35 with Backcountry Camping	
	<b>Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees</b> (per person) (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> )	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	<b>Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees</b> (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> )	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	<b>Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit</b> (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$5	
	<b>Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation</b> (voluntary; available at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	Any amount	

\*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youths under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).



## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

### RESIDENT LICENSING

A resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence, and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to buying a li-

cense, full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least six months, or military service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky.

### NONRESIDENT LICENSING

A person who does not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident is considered a nonresident and must purchase nonresident licenses and permits. Non-

### RESIDENT SENIOR OR DISABLED COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting and Fishing License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents ages 65 or older. Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the federal Social Security Administration, a state workers' compensation board, the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System or the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

#### To obtain a disability license authorization card:

- If your disability is through the –
- **Federal Social Security Administration:** To request a Benefit Verification Letter (BEVE), you may: (1) go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount), (2) call 1-800-772-1213 or (3) contact your local office. To request the BEVE on the Social Security website, choose "Create an Account" or "Sign In." Next, click the "Get a Benefit Verification Letter" link. Next select "Customize your letter." The BEVE should

include your name, address, date of birth, benefit amount and indicate that you are disabled. Next, choose "Apply to letter" and then "Print." If you contact Social Security, please request all of this information to be included on the BEVE. The BEVE will only include the last four digits of your claim number(s). We ask that you write your entire Social Security Number (SSN) on the BEVE before sending it to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. The full SSN is required in order to process the Hunting/Fishing License application. The BEVE that you send to us should not be over six months old from its date of issue.

- **Veterans Affairs:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50 percent disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. The letter should also have your current address and your Social Security number.
- **State Workers' Compensation Board:** Request an application from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and send the completed form to the state Workers' Compensation Board.
- **U.S. Railroad Retirement Board:** Contact the Board and request a letter stating you are permanently and totally disabled and show current address.
- **Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System:** Contact the Teachers' Retirement System and request written documentation stating you are on disability retirement and show a current address.
- **U.S. Office of Personnel Management:** Contact the federal Office of Personnel Management and obtain

certification of employment, obtain certification of being 100 percent disabled from a recognized authority, and show a current address.

#### To send disability paperwork to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife:

- By mail: KDFWR Disability License, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
- By fax: (502) 564-9845

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail.

The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of license purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. The Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting and Fishing License is valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card or license, you can print a copy of both online using the "My Profile" feature at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

#### **Q:** How long is a disability authorization card valid?

**A:** A disability authorization card is good for three years (check the expiration date). Every three years you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions on this page) and get a new card. Those who already have a disability authorization card through Veterans Affairs, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board or U.S. Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

resident youth hunters are subject to the same license and permit requirements as resident youth hunters. A nonresident who owns land in Kentucky must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

### YOUTH LICENSING

Resident and nonresident hunters under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for the elk drawing application.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year, if they are purchased before the youth is 16.

Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkey, elk, deer or bear with

a firearm must always be accompanied by an adult.

Persons under 12 years old, who have passed a hunter education course, may hunt small game and furbearers without being accompanied by an adult.

The Annual Youth Hunting License authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species and migratory bird species.

The Youth Turkey Permit allows the hunter to harvest one turkey. The Youth Turkey Permit may be used during any turkey season. The resident-only Youth Sportsman's License includes the Annual Youth Hunting License, two (2) Youth Deer permits and two (2) Youth Turkey permits.

## Sportsman's License - Save \$55

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring and fall turkey permits, statewide deer permit, state Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit and trout permit.

A federal duck stamp (available at post offices and online at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com)) is required for waterfowl hunting.

## RECORDING, CHECKING and TAGGING

### HARVEST LOG

All successful turkey hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log as soon as the animal is taken and prior to moving the carcass.

Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species and sex of animal taken, date and county where taken.

A telecheck confirmation number must be obtained by midnight on the day the turkey is recovered and prior to processing the carcass. The confirmation number must be recorded on the harvest log.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit. A printable harvest log is accessible by clicking the "Hunt" tab on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife online homepage and choosing "Hunting Home" from the dropdown menu.

License-exempt hunters, children younger than 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or index card.

Hunters must have the completed harvest log whenever afield during the current season.

### TELECHECK

#### 1-800-CHK-GAME (1-800-245-4263)

All turkeys harvested must be telechecked through the toll-free, automated check-in system. Hunters may also check in harvested turkeys online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Checking your harvested turkey takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful. All harvested turkeys must be telechecked by midnight on the day the animal is recovered and prior to processing the carcass.

Telecheck is available 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch tone phone.

Callers will be asked their Social Security number and code for the county in which the animal was taken. County codes are listed on the "Telecheck Info"

page online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). All youth hunters must use their Social Security number when telechecking an animal.

Callers must also indicate the animal's species and sex. Next, callers will be asked about the type of equipment they used to harvest the animal, whether the land was private or public, and the type of license they used.

Once the harvest information has been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold for several seconds while the system submits the survey information. The hunter then will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested turkey was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

### CARCASS TAG

A hunter shall attach a handmade tag to the carcass of any harvested turkey if transferring possession of the harvested animal to another person.

For example, a carcass tag is required if the hunter gives the turkey to another person, drops it off to be processed, or takes it to a taxidermist.

A harvested turkey in a hunter's possession is assumed to be theirs, unless the carcass tag states otherwise. The carcass tag must include the hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

**Q: Due to a cell phone dropped call, a hunter loses a confirmation number. Should the animal be checked in again?**

**A:** Try again until you get the confirmation number, and then contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 the next business day to report the incident.



# GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

## LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to shoot, hunt, trap, fish or for other wildlife-related recreational purposes without the verbal or written permission of the landowner, tenant, or person who has authority to grant permission.

Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately-owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

Landowners are under no obligation to allow hunters to retrieve game or hunting dogs from their property.

## HUNTER EDUCATION

Persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, must carry a valid hunter education card or hunter education exemption permit while hunting. Persons not required to have licenses or permits are exempt from hunter education certification.

Hunter education courses are held throughout the state. Effective March 1, 2014, pre-registration must be done online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). More information about the registration process is available on the website or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Children must be at least 9 years old to take the hunter education test. People who complete the course are issued an orange certification card. Hunter education cards issued by other states are valid in Kentucky.

Children younger than 12 years old are exempt from hunter education certification, but must be accompanied by an adult who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult must be in a position to take immediate control of the bow or firearm at all times while hunting. One adult cannot accompany more than two hunters under 12 years old at the same time.

## APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

This apprentice hunting opportunity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exemption permit holder is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course.

The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky. It is not accepted at Blue Grass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

## REPLACEMENT HUNTER EDUCATION CARDS

Free replacement hunter education cards can be printed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). On the homepage, click on the "Education" tab and select "Hunter Education" from the dropdown menu.

## HUNTING METHOD EXEMPTIONS

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife grants exemptions to hunters with cer-

tain physical disabilities to hunt with a crossbow during archery-only seasons, or to use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform. However, persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician certifying why the exemption is necessary.

Forms are available online or by calling the department. A completed exemption form serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department. Persons who obtain an exemption are still required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits, and must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

## CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but any firearms carried concealed must be done so pursuant to KRS 527.020.

## CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. See KRS 527.040 for more details.

## REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

Anyone may report wildlife law violators anonymously by calling 1-800-25-ALERT (1-800-252-5378).

# Kentucky AFIELD

Subscribe online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, offers you practical tips for a better day in the woods or on the water. The bonus calendar issue gives you season dates and provides monthly tips about fishing and the natural world. Get all this for just \$10 a year, or \$18 for two years!



# WILD TURKEY HUNTING

## SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Wild Turkey	April 2-3, 2016	April 16 – May 8, 2016

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

### FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

From March 1 through May 31, it is illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes). This regulation does not apply to normal agricultural practices or food plots, or municipal areas not open to legal hunting or trapping.

### PRE-SEASON CALLING

A person shall not mimic the sound of a turkey in an area open to turkey hunting and where turkeys are reasonably ex-

pected to be present from March 1 until the opening of the youth-only turkey season, and from the close of the youth-only turkey season until the opening of the statewide turkey season. However, locating turkeys with an owl, crow, coyote or woodpecker call is permitted when scouting.

### PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

**Adult hunters:** Unless exempt, all spring turkey hunters ages 16 and older must carry with them in the field proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license and a valid Spring Turkey Permit.

Short-term (1- or 7-day) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting. The Spring Turkey Permit is valid for the general spring season and allows a hunter to harvest up to the spring season bag limit of turkeys.

**Youth hunters:** Children ages 15 and younger may hunt turkeys during the youth-only hunting weekend and the general spring season.

Youths younger than age 12 are exempt from license and turkey permit requirements. Unless exempt, all spring turkey hunters ages 12-15 must carry with them in the field proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license and a valid Spring Turkey Permit. Youths ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase a Youth Turkey Permit, which is valid for the harvest of one turkey during a license year. Youth hunters must abide by season bag limits and harvest restrictions. The resident-only Youth Sportsman's License includes two (2) Youth Turkey Permits.

Youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year if they are purchased before the child's 16th birthday. Youths who hunt turkeys with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the firearm at all times.

### LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following to take turkeys during the spring seasons:

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum) with a working safety device.
- Non-barbed broadheads with a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8-inch, whether expandable or non-expandable.

### PROHIBITED SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunting Method Exemptions" in the "General Information" section of this guide).
- Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device.
- Harvest a roosting turkey.
- Use live decoys.
- Hunt over bait. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. However, a person may hunt wild turkeys on an area where grain, feed or other substance exists as the result of a bona fide agricultural practice or manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose.

### SPRING SEASON BAG LIMITS

A hunter may take a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard. No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day. No more than two (2) birds may be taken per spring season. Any combination of male turkeys, or turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit. Turkeys taken by youths during the youth-only season count toward the spring turkey bag limit.

### HARVEST RECORDING

All harvested turkeys must be logged and telechecked. Consult the "General Information" section of this guide for complete information about harvest logs, telecheck and carcass tags.

**CALLER/ASSISTANT**

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt. Callers and assistants are not required to possess a hunting license or turkey permit, and may carry equipment while in the field.

**HUNTER ORANGE**

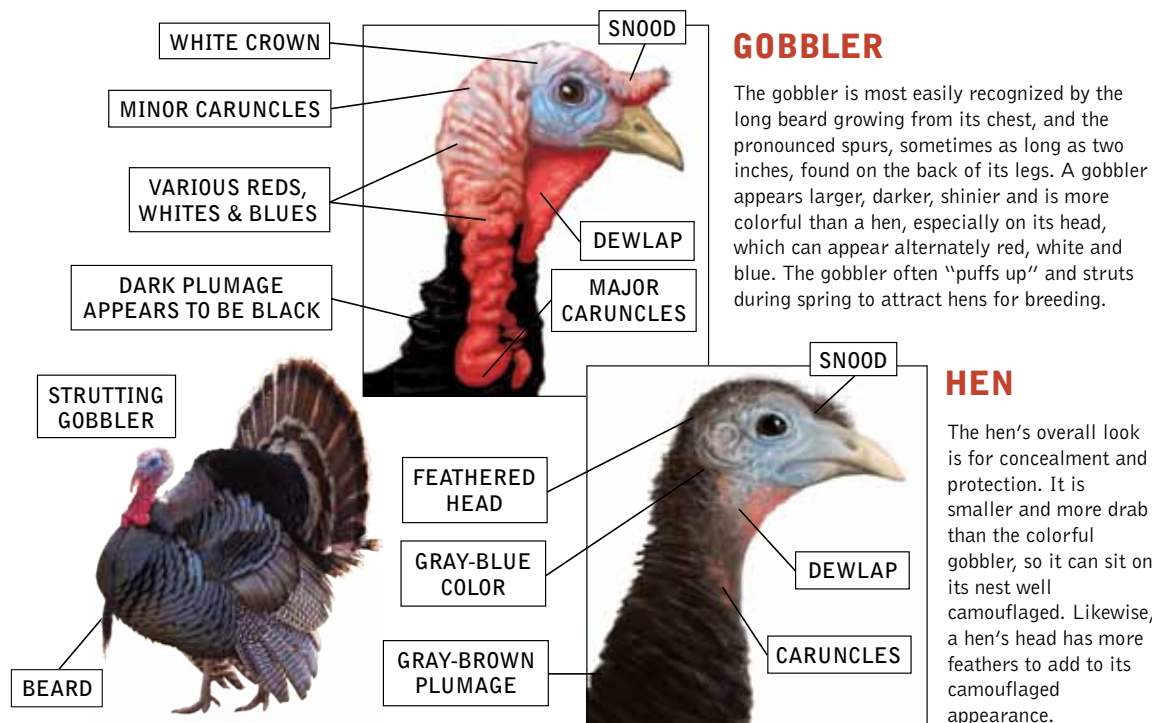
Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during the

spring turkey seasons. However, wearing an article of hunter orange clothing while carrying a harvested turkey is a simple and effective way to help prevent hunting accidents that can occur when a hunter is mistaken for game.

**POSSESSION / RELEASE OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS and EGGS**

Due to the potential for spread of

disease and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. It is also illegal to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs. It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed during any time of the year. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative.

**GOBBLER / HEN IDENTIFICATION**

Source: National Wild Turkey Federation ([www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)).

**TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS**

- Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and odds of becoming involved in an accident increase.
- Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red or white are the colors hunters are looking for when differentiating a gobbler's head from the hen's grayish-blue head. These colors not only put you in danger, but they can be seen by turkeys as well.
- Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice, "Hey, I'm here," and remain hidden.
- Be particularly careful when using a gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters, and could draw fire.
- When selecting your calling position, sit at the base of a large tree, if one is available, to protect your torso and head. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
- Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be certain of your target. Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
- When hunting with a turkey decoy, place the decoy about 20 yards from your calling position. To be safe, you need a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This will enable you to see any approaching hunter and keep you at a safe distance if another hunter were to shoot at your decoy.
- Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field, and open the action or unload your shotgun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over low fence wire, or fording a creek.

# SQUIRREL HUNTING

## SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season	Bag Limit
Squirrel	May 21 – June 17, 2016	Daily limit is six squirrels; possession limit is 12

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

### LEGAL SPRING SQUIRREL HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- Rimfire gun [or rimfire handgun](#).
- [.410-gauge handgun](#).
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and

- one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

### PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping squirrels during the spring season, or hunting squirrels at any time with slingshots or blowguns is prohibited.

# COYOTES and OTHER WILDLIFE

## HUNTING SEASONS

### COYOTES

Coyotes may be hunted year-round with no bag limit.

They can be hunted after daylight hours using lights or night vision equipment from Feb. 1 – May 31. Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting but a shell containing a single projectile may not be used.

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed by Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge

SPECIES	Seasons
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)
Groundhog	Year-round
Bullfrog	Noon, May 20 – Midnight, Oct. 31, 2016
Turtles*	Year-round, day or night

\* Alligator snapping turtles may not be harvested.

and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, including Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Mill Creek and Pioneer Weapons wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Hand or mouth-operated calls and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal. It is legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses. Animal carcasses are considered bait. A hunter shall not place or distribute bait or otherwise participate in baiting wildlife on all WMAs, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area,

Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Land Between The Lakes and state parks open to hunting.

Coyotes may only be trapped during furbearer trapping seasons.

### GROUNDHOGS

Groundhogs may be hunted statewide, year-round with no bag limit. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.



## BULLFROGS

The daily limit (noon to noon) is 15. The possession limit is 30.

If bullfrogs are taken by gun or bow and arrow, a hunting license is required. If taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, either a hunting or fishing license is valid. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake, or in a boat, from Nov. 1 – Jan. 31.

## TURTLES

Snapping turtles (except alligator snapping turtles) and softshell turtles may be taken year-round with no bag limit but may not be harvested for commercial purposes.

A hunting license is required if turtles are taken by gun or bow and arrow. Consult the Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide for information on other legal means of harvest.

## WILD PIGS

Wild pigs may be hunted year-round, with no bag limit, except on Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area ([www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso)).

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is

## LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following to take coyotes, wild pigs, ground-hogs, and exotic species of wildlife:

- Modern rifle, or handgun of any caliber, with no restriction on magazine capacity.
- Muzzle-loading rifles may be used to harvest the above-listed species, except coyotes.
- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, shooting any size lead or non-toxic shot, including buckshot. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in the magazine and one in the chamber).
- Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting. A shell containing a single projectile may not be used at night.
- Archery and crossbow equipment.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

license exempt.

Landowners are strongly encouraged to work with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping is the most effective

method of removal.

Tell your local conservation officer about the use of snares and/or corral traps on your property.

Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. It is illegal to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky.

To report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, or to get advice on effective control, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

## BIRDS

- English sparrows and starlings may be hunted year-round with no bag limit, but a hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.
- Pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River Lake WMA, Yellowbank WMA and Clay WMA.
- All birds of prey and native songbirds are protected under state and federal laws, and may not be taken.

## MAMMALS and OTHER WILDLIFE

- The spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern Kentucky, is a protected species and may not be taken.
- All federally threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

# PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

## KENTUCKY FISH and WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife owns, leases or manages more than 80 wildlife management areas (WMAs) for public use. On some areas, a user permit is required. Many public-use areas have special regulations and hunting season dates that are different from statewide seasons.

This page lists WMAs where special regulations are in effect for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. If you plan to hunt on any of these areas, make note of the differences from statewide regulations.

When hunting on WMAs respect the boundaries of adjoining private lands, be courteous, don't trespass and keep safety in mind. Horseback riding on WMAs is prohibited during firearms seasons for turkeys.

### BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA (Barren and Allen counties)

Hunters shall not hunt on the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands with a breech-loading firearm.

### HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA (Union County)

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey hunters may only use archery gear and crossbows.

### LIVINGSTON COUNTY WMA

Open for the youth-only turkey season, and open only to youth hunters during the general spring turkey season.

### OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA (Meade County)

User permit required. Hunting during the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons ends at noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use rifles, or ball or slug ammunition.

### PEABODY WMA (Ohio, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties)

Any person ages 16 and older must obtain and carry a Peabody WMA user

permit (\$15) while on the property; or be a member of a group with an event permit, either an individual event permit (\$25) or an annual event permit (\$250).

### PIONEER WEAPONS WMA (Bath and Menifee counties)

Hunters may not use breech-loading firearms to take squirrel or turkey. Scopes or optical enhancements shall not be used to take turkey.

### ROBINSON FOREST WMA (Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties)

The main block of this area is closed to turkey and squirrel hunting.

### WEST KENTUCKY WMA (McCracken County)

All tracts are open for the youth-only turkey season. All tracts except those marked with the letter "A" are open for the general turkey season. Squirrel hunters shall not use a rifle, ball or slug ammunition. Check-in required before using an "A" tract. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic from Feb. 1-April 16.

## OTHER AREAS

The following lands are not owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunting dates may differ from statewide seasons and advanced registration to hunt may be required. Some areas require paper licenses and have more restrictive hunter education age requirements.

Seasons on military installations are subject to change based on training exercises and other activities. Some areas offer "bonus" birds that do not count against the statewide season bag limit, but hunters must possess a valid hunting license and turkey permit to participate. Active duty military may be license-exempt on some areas.

Contact the appropriate agency for details.

### BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT

431 Battlefield Memorial Highway  
Richmond, KY 40475  
(859) 779-6651

<http://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Blue-Grass-Army-Depot-Hunt-Fact-Sheet.aspx>

Application deadline for spring turkey hunts is July 31 of the previous year. Background check is required if selected. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted.

### CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

91 U.S. 641 North, Benton, KY 42025  
(270) 527-5770

[www.fws.gov/refuge/clarks\\_river](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/clarks_river)

Open under statewide regulations for spring squirrel and turkey seasons.

Squirrel hunters who hunt with shotguns must use non-toxic shot. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Refuge user permit required.

### FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION

6645 101st Airborne Division Road  
Fort Campbell, KY 42223  
(270) 798-2175

[campbell.armymwr.com/us/campbell/programs/hunting](http://campbell.armymwr.com/us/campbell/programs/hunting)

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Contact for dates. Kentucky hunters may hunt on both the Kentucky and Tennessee portions of the base. No spring squirrel hunting. Proof of successful completion of a state-approved hunter safety course is required. Hunters must be at least 9 years old and must register their firearms before bringing a firearm onto the installation.

### FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION

Hunt Control Office, Wilson Road,  
Building 9297, Fort Knox, KY 40121  
(502) 624-7311 or (502) 624-2712  
[www.knox.army.mil/garrison/dpw/emd/huntctrl](http://www.knox.army.mil/garrison/dpw/emd/huntctrl)

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Contact for dates. Spring

squirrel hunting permitted. Rifles, handguns and solid projectile ammunition are prohibited for hunting small game. Hunters ages 12-60 must have a hunter education card, or hunter education exemption permit. Hunters must register their firearms prior to bringing a firearm onto the installation.

### HIDDEN VALLEY TRAINING AREA

Closed to all turkey hunting, including youth-only and general spring turkey season. Closed for spring squirrel season.

### LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

100 Van Morgan Drive  
Golden Pond, KY 42211  
(270) 924-2065

[www.landbetweenthe lakes.us](http://www.landbetweenthe lakes.us)

Area user permit required. Apply online in February for spring turkey quota hunts. Non-quota turkey hunt also offered. Hunters shall take no more than one (1) turkey with a visible beard. No bonus birds. Must use statewide permit. Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Contact for dates.

### REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

4343 Highway 157  
Union City, TN 38261  
(731) 538-2481

[www.fws.gov/reelfoot](http://www.fws.gov/reelfoot)

Quota turkey hunts early April by advance application. Hunters may not take more than one (1) bearded turkey. Counts as bonus turkey. No spring squirrel hunting. Refuge user permit required.

### Maps and information

For maps and information on WMAs and other public hunting areas, go online to [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). On the homepage, click "Maps."